

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00145 171916Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 EUR-12 /035 W
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R 171600Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3393
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
USDAO ABIDJAN
USDAO MONROVIA
COMSECONDFLT
CNO
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCLANTFLT
COMNAVFLURFLANT
COMNAVFORCARIB
COMNAVINTCOM
COMPHIBGRU TWO
COMCRUDESGRU TWO
COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT
COMSOLANT
COMPHIBRON TWO
USS INCHON
USS SPRUANCE
USS VALDEZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 145

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR XY BR TO US
SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF USS VALDEZ TO LOME 16-19 FEBRUARY 1978

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TOGOLESE ARMED FORCES COLONEL AYAOVI ASSILA WITH LETTER FOR PRESIDENT EYADEMA IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF STAFF. LETTER ENCLOSED COPY OF EMBASSY NOTE TO FOREIGN OFFICE AND SET FORTH DETAILS VISIT INCLUDING REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF LIAISON OFFICER.

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WM ASSILA WAS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT COMING OF VALDEZ AND PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN TOGOLESE MILITARY AND US NAVAL PERSONNEL. HE CALLED IN COLONEL PAUL MOQUET, FRENCH MILITARY ADVISOR TO TOGOLESE ARMED FORCES, AND TASKED HIM WITH BRIEFING PRESIDENT EYADEMA ON PROPOSED VISIT. AMBASSADOR TOLD MOQUET AND ASSILA THAT EMBASSY HAD

LEARNED TWO GABONESE PATROL CRAFT WOULD BE IN PORT AT LOME AT SAME TIME PROPOSED FOR VALDEZ VISIT AND ASKED WHETHER THIS PRESENTED PROBLEM. BOTH SAID THAT THEY DID NOT SEE ANY PROBLEM AND, IN FACT, INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY ENHANCE VALDEZ VISIT BECAUSE SOME ACTIVITIES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN JOINTLY.

ASSILA SAID THAT CAPTAIN KOMLAN FIATY WOULD PROBABLY BE OVERALL LIAISON OFFICER AND LIEUTENANT JULIEN GENG, FRENCH COMMANDER TOGOLESE NAVY WHICH CONSISTS OF TWO FAST PATROL CRAFT, WOULD BE NAVAL LIAISON.

3. MOQUET'S INTENTION IS TO SEE PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 18 IN ORDER TO GET HIS RESPONSE AND TO PERMIT NECESSARY PLANNING TO BEGIN. MOQUET SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE BASIC PROGRAM WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED FOR THE TRIPPE VISIT SEEMED A GOOD ONE.

4. ASSILA SAID IF VISIT APPROVED, AND HE WAS NO REASON WHY IT SHOULDNOT BE, TOGOLESE MILITARY WOULD PROBABLY OFFER RECEPTION FOR VALDEZ AT NAVAL BASE. AMBASSADOR NOTED HIS RECEPTION FOR VALDEZ SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 18 AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOCIAL EVENTS WOULD NOT CONFLICT FOR VALDEZ. AMBASSADOR REMINDED ASSILA THAT TRIPPE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN EXCESSIVELY GOOD AS AMBASSADORS OF GOOD WILL AND HAD NOT WON ANY OF SPORTS COMPETITIONS. ASSILA SAID THAT WINNING WAS NOT AT ISSUE IN THESE MATTERS. NEVERTHELESS, WISH TO ALERT VALDEZ THAT TOGOLESE BASKETBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL AND TENNIS TEAMS WELL TRAINED AND HUNGRY. PALMER

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